

SNOCK BLOCK/PRINTZ BUILDING

1234 – 1242 Liberty Street



Prior to 1860 dilapidated stands stood in this area called Rat Hole Row. The discovery of OIL brought with it numerous trade and business centers requiring the substantial buildings that now line Liberty Street.

This Italianate style building was constructed in part in 1883 and a second half in 1888. At that time it was known as the E.W. Snook Block, housing the Snook & Co. Hardware. In 1901 Charles Reisinger purchased the business and renamed it Franklin Hardware which remained in operation under various ownerships until 1999.

The two upper floors, now vacant, surround a center atrium and were formerly used by the Y.M.C.A., Franklin Library, Knights of Columbus, numerous civic clubs, small businesses and oil production offices. For years the building was also known as the Printz Block with the Printz Clothing Company having its corporate office on the second floor.

PRINTZ BUILDING

1246 –1248 Liberty Street



In the early 1900s the Pastime Theatre was one of several motion picture houses in Franklin. This building with its whimsical facade was razed in 1913 to make way for the new Princess Theatre under the ownership of B.H. Printz. Mr. Printz later closed the theatre to enlarge his steadily growing clothing establishment in the adjoining building. The present commercial building is nicely appointed with a row of Luxfer glass windows separating the first and second floors.

BOYD N. PARK BUILDING
1252 Liberty Street



Boyd N. Park opened his furniture and undertaking establishment here in the 1880s. Throughout the next 100 years the ownership changed but the name Park Furniture remained a focal point on Liberty Street until its closing in 1980.

Modernization began taking place in 1937 with new storefronts and more recently the basement areas for small business enterprises. The regular symmetry and proportions of this Italianate style building add to Franklin's architectural heritage

EVENING NEWS BUILDING
1254-1256 Liberty Street



Early photo of the newsboys

James B. Borland, writer and publisher in this area for 61 years, ran the Evening News Printing Company from this location in the early 1900s. Newsboys were dispensed throughout the city to announce the headlines and distribute papers.

FELDMAN JEWELRY

1260 Liberty Street



Thomas Huling's boarding house stood on this site in the very early years of Franklin's settlement. Gradually the simple frame structures of our town gave way to sturdy architecture and well-developed city blocks.

This building was damaged by fire in 1886 and once housed early tenants such as the general store of Myron Park, Martin & Epley Drug Store and Byrer Hardware. The current circa 1900 structure with its beautifully appointed façade is now the home of Feldman Jewelry.

B.J. Feldman opened his first jewelry store in Franklin in 1871, occupying various sites in the business area. His son, George Feldman was a well-known civic leader, musician and businessman. George was co-founder of the Fulcrum Oil Company, a local industry engaged in the manufacture of clock and watch oils.

CENTRE BLOCK

1262-1272 Liberty Street



This 1872 Italianate style structure was severely damaged by fire in 1886.

Shown here is an early view illustrating the Centre Block as the hub of the downtown business area. Over the years numerous business establishments were located within these storefronts and upper floors. Lawyers, tailors, photographers, news offices, physicians, hardware stores, book & stationery, music and general merchandise stores. These are but a few of the occupants during the early bustling days of Franklin's downtown history. The building to the left was razed and replaced with the present modern structure, Sportsworld, in the early 1970s.

J.T. CAMPBELL / WHITMER BUILDING

1282 – 1284 Liberty Street

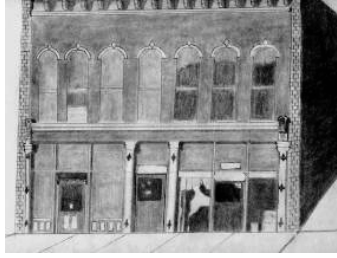


Illustration by Josh Carone – Rocky Grove High School © 2003

This Italianate style building was erected in 1871. Mr. J.T. Campbell began his drygoods business at this location in 1875. The business remained in the Campbell family with Ralph W. Whitmer later becoming a partner and then owner until its closing in 1967. In the early years horse-drawn wagons delivered carpets from the railroad station to the store where a pulley hoisted the heavy carpet rolls to the second floor entrance.

OLD FIRST NATIONAL BANK

1286 Liberty Street

A beautiful ornate building once stood at this location and was known as the First National Bank. Established in 1863 it long served the community into the early 1920s.

Numerous tenants occupied this corner over the decades, the present structure was built by and housed the Northwest Savings Bank offices.

